

Correspondence

THE AIRPLANE WAITS

April 9, 1921.

Dr. Harlan Shoemaker, Sec.-Treas.,
Los Angeles County Medical Association,
Marsh-Strong Building,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation, I am writing you the arrangement I made with Henry Fisher, Jr., of the Mercury Aviation Co., Crescent and Wilshire blvds., telephone 567363.

That their five-passenger, all-metal monoplane, with two pilots, make the following schedule, daily, May 10, 11 and 12, 1921:

Lv. L. Angeles 7:00 a.m. Ar. S. Diego 8:30 a.m.
Lv. L. Angeles 12:00 a.m. Ar. S. Diego 1:30 p.m.
Lv. S. Diego 9:30 a.m. Ar. L. Angeles 11:00 a.m.
Lv. S. Diego 4:30 p.m. Ar. L. Angeles 6:00 p.m.

The fare one way will be \$20, round trip \$35. The plane leaves Mercury Field, Crescent and Wilshire blvds., Los Angeles, and arrives at North Island, San Diego, the Government permitting us to land on its field, which is close to the Coronado Hotel.

I have been riding in this plane considerably the last six months and know that it is not only a first-class ship, but also that it is well handled, absolutely no stunts are allowed. I feel that the words, "Medical Society," should be painted on the lower side of the wings as large as the space will permit.

Seats not taken by the doctors after May 8 will be offered to the public; naturally the doctors will not wish to return the first day, nor leave on the last day.

The little flying I have done has made me an enthusiast on civil or commercial flying; also brought me to the realization that we in Los Angeles who, because of our climate, should lead the world, are way behind the Europeans, where they have already aeroplane strap-hangers. If you will refer the doctors to me I will be glad to explain anything I can, also receive their reservations for the proposed trips. I am satisfied it is safer than by auto and more comfortable.

Yours by way of the air,

P. C. H. PAHL, M. D.

County Societies

ALAMEDA COUNTY

The regular meeting of the Alameda County Medical Association was held at the Alameda County Health Center on the evening of March 21. Dr. Frank Baxter arranged a very interesting program upon subjects relative to the eye, and lead the discussion of the following papers: "The Relation of the Eye to General Practice," presented by Dr. R. J. Nutting; "A Case Report of Detached Retina," read by Dr. J. W. Calkins, and "The Treatment of Cataract by Radium," read by Dr. Wm. H. Sargent.

On April 12 the Alameda County Medical Association will entertain at luncheon at Hotel Oakland as their guest of honor, General John M. T. Finney, Clinical Professor of Medicine of John Hopkins University, and Chief Surgical Officer of the A. E. F. in France during the war. This promises to be a very interesting meeting, and more than usual interest is manifest by the fact that already one hundred and fifteen favorable answers have been received to the invitations.

Dr. John L. Lapp, LL. D., managing editor of Modern Medicine, is to speak upon "Industrial Medicine," following a dinner at Hotel Oakland on the evening of April 14, given by the Alameda County Health Center.

The March meeting of the staff of Merritt Hospital occurred on the evening of Monday the 7th. Dr. James Adams, late of the Boston Psychopathic Hospital, spoke upon "Differential Diagnosis in Psychiatry." Dr. Stewart Irwin spoke on "Disease of the Thyroid Gland." The meeting was followed by a very enjoyable buffet luncheon.

The annual staff banquet of Merritt Hospital was held at Hotel Oakland on the evening of March 24. Dr. H. N. Rowell presided as toastmaster, and introduced the following speakers: John S. Chambers, chairman of the State Board of Control; Joseph H. King, president of the Oakland Chamber of Commerce, and Fred Emerson Brooks, the California poet. A most enjoyable musical program was furnished by some members of the Bohemian Club.

On April 2, Dr. R. T. Legge responded to an invitation from the Southern California Medical Society to speak at their meeting in Santa Ana, upon the subject of "Socialized Medicine and Its Relation to the General Practitioner."

FRESNO COUNTY

The regular meeting of the Fresno County Medical Society was held Tuesday evening at Hanford, as guests of Dr. C. T. Rosson, who entertained the society at a banquet at the Kings Hotel. The speaker of the evening was Dr. W. J. Stone, who spoke on the cause of death in pneumonia, with remarks on treatment.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President M. L. Fernandez at Richmond, Calif.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The resignation of Dr. O'Malley as president of the society was read and accepted by unanimous vote.

Applications for membership were received from Dr. W. S. George, of Antioch, and Dr. J. B. Blackshaw, of Pittsburg.

Owing to the resignation of Dr. O'Malley as president, Dr. Fernandez' name was proposed, and it was moved and seconded that the secretary cast the ballot.

The names of Doctors Peters, Coats, Finney and McKenzie were presented, who were unanimously elected to membership.

Clinical cases of trichiniasis were reported by Dr. Fernandez and Dr. Wetmore.

The paper of the evening was read by Dr. J. Marion Read, of San Francisco, on "Fundamentals of Clinical Calorimetry with Illustrations of Its Application." The author gave briefly the history of calorimetry, explained graphically the principals of the instrument used, and then showed the value of its use in differential diagnosis and in determining the progress of cases under treatment for hyperthyroidism.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

The society has leased quarters in the Union League Club for the ensuing year, and the regular scientific meetings will be held there.

Dr. Edwin O. Jordan, of the Department of Hygiene and Bacteriology of the University of Chicago, addressed the society, his subject being, "Observations on the Epidemiology of Influenza." This was followed by an exhibition of diagnostic moving pictures, prepared under direction of Surgeon-General Merritt W. Ireland.

Dr. A. B. Cecil reviewed a series of one hundred consecutive perineal prostectomies, and in connection with this, favored the society with a preview of what is perhaps the most perfect cinema production of an operative procedure ever made. It is to be regretted that the length of

this report, and the time necessary for production of the moving pictures, prevent its presentation before the State Medical Society. An additional section of the society, to be known as the Trudeau Tuberculosis Section, has been admitted to membership. The officers for the ensuing year are Dr. Charles C. Browning, chairman; Dr. Leon Schulman, vice-chairman; Dr. William C. Finch, secretary-treasurer.

The uneasy head which wears the crown of Surgeon of the Receiving Hospital has again been laid low. Dr. Stadfield, who has merited much praise during the past three years for his capable service and devotion to duty, was relieved of his position by the City Council, and Dr. Goodrich, who has been serving as an assistant surgeon, was appointed chief of the service. It is understood that the latter appointment is a temporary one, and that a movement is on foot to place the Receiving Hospital under the charge and supervision of the City Health Commission. A solution of the problem in this way seems logical, and would probably result in much benefit to the community and satisfaction to the medical profession.

Marking the culmination of five years' devoted service on the part of its President, Maud Wilde, the Association of Mothers' Educational Centers held its annual Baby Week Program on March 28 to April 1. During the past year, twelve thousand mothers and their children have availed themselves of the free service so willingly extended by these centers. Dr. Wilde has been chiefly instrumental in establishing twenty-four branches in Southern California, and the benefits to be derived by the future generation are incalculable. This work has the unqualified support of the medical profession.

MENDOCINO COUNTY

A regular meeting was held at Fort Bragg on April 8, 1921. Present: Dr. H. H. Wolfe, president, and Drs. Royal Scudder, Raymond Babcock, Harper Peddicord, C. L. Sweet, P. J. Bowman, and O. H. Beckman, members.

Minutes of the yearly meeting were read and approved, as were also those of the special held at Fort Bragg on March 26.

The special was called to act upon several communications from the State Secretary's office, and which could not wait. At that special a resolution was passed that, if approved by the State Secretary, Drs. Paul J. Bowman and Royal Scudder would be declared members on payment of their dues.

A motion by Dr. H. Peddicord, and seconded by Dr. F. McL. Campbell, that a committee be appointed to take up with the supervisors about the care of tuberculosis in this county, carried.

Program—Dr. Bowman reported an interesting case of hydrocephalocoele, at birth. Parturition occurred on February 6, 1921. Breech presenting. Delivery difficult; child otherwise normal. Tumor was connected by a fibrous peduncle of $3\frac{1}{2}$ c. m., just below the external occipital protuberance. On February 11, it was tapped and 650 c. c. of a sero-sanguinous fluid let out. On February 28, the child being otherwise normal, the tumor was again tapped and yielded 450 c. c. of fluid similar to first tapping; then it was amputated near its base.

Its wall consisted of skin, fascia and pia, but no dura-mater. From a 2 c. m. opening in the skull, a typical embryonic brain tissue, the size of a hen's egg, was protruding. After amputating this mass, the child's condition became grave. It never rallied, and died one hour after operation.

Dr. Babcock exhibited X-ray burns of both hands, and gave a very interesting talk on the subject.

Dr. Scudder reported a case of paralysis of the lower extremities following childbirth. The doctor gave a very interesting description and talk on it.

The next meeting will be held at Ukiah in June.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Everything is set for the best State medical meeting California has ever held. Let the Golden Poppy Jubilee be something to be remembered by all. The local committee of arrangements consisting of L. C. Kinney, M. D., chairman, P. M. Carrington, M. D., and Paul Wegeforth, M. D., ably assisted by a corps of lieutenants, have planned and worked unceasingly through the past few months to make this event a social as well as a scientific success.

The San Diego County Hospital, accredited as a standardized hospital by the American College of Surgeons, extends an invitation to visiting doctors to inspect its equipment and workings. This included the Vauclain Hospital for the tuberculous in the immediate vicinity of the general hospital.

A well-managed training school for nurses is conducted in connection with the hospital. Applications for the nursing course should be made to Mrs. L. E. Jackson, superintendent of nurses.

A new horizontal fluoroscopic table was recently purchased for the X-ray department.

About fifteen members of the county society motored to Santa Ana to attend the Southern California Society meeting, April 1 and 2. They were awarded by a program of unusual excellence and breath of interest.

St. Joseph's Hospital is steadily advancing in its standardization program, the staff having established monthly meetings for routine business and the discussion of interesting cases occurring in the wards. Dr. O'Neill, as head of the executive council of the medical staff, makes a capable and energetic officer.

Recent meetings of the society have furnished some excellent discussions of papers well meriting the same by their able presentations. We mention the following as being particularly practical: Dr. J. F. Churchill's paper of March 22, on "Angina Pectoris and Pulmonary Edema"; and Dr. C. M. Fox, on the same date, on the "Treatment of Lung Abscess"; Dr. T. F. Weir, on April 12, "Induction of Labor at Term," and Dr. V. G. Clark, on the same date, "Post Operative Abdominal Pain." The system of printing a synopsis of the papers in advance of the meeting is proving distinctly stimulating to the discussion.

SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY

During the month of March, 1921, the following meetings were held:

Tuesday, March 8, 1921—General Meeting.

1. Smallpox situation. Wm. C. Hassler.
2. Diagnosis and treatment of smallpox. R. W. Burlingame.
3. Diphtheria. E. C. Fleischer.

Tuesday, March 15, 1921—Section on Surgery.

1. The question of immediate trachelorrhaphy. L. A. Emge.
2. Skin grafting by some of the new methods. G. W. Pierce.

Tuesday, March 22, 1921—Section on Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat.

1. Cosmetic surgery of the nose and ears. Grant Selfridge.
2. Plastic operations on the eyelids and mouth cavity. G. W. Pierce.

With the aid of a gift from Dr. Adolph Barkan, emeritus professor of the Stanford Medical School, Stanford University is gathering in the Lane Library of the Medical School in San Francisco, a collection on the history of medicine that will be equaled by no other western institution.

Dr. Barkan will give \$1000 a year for the next three years, to which the university will be able to add from the income from certain Lane Library Foundations \$1500 a year, making a total fund of

\$7500, all of which will be expended on books concerning the history of medicine.

Dr. Barkan, himself, is now in Europe, and he has employed an expert and has also gained the assistance of one of the most celebrated professors in Europe to aid him in getting together this collection.

Dr. Barkan was professor of structure and diseases of the eye, ear, and larynx, in the Medical School, and retired from active teaching in 1911. He has before this been a liberal benefactor of the Medical School Library, having given his own library dealing with the subjects in his own special field, together with \$10,000 as a fund for the purchase of other books on these subjects.

PLACER COUNTY

The Placer County Medical Society held its regular meeting at the Colfax Hospital, Saturday evening, April 2, 1921. The program consisted of a pneumothorax clinic. The operation of pneumothorax was performed on two patients, and several cases illustrating partial and complete pneumothorax, hydrothorax and hydropneumothorax were exhibited on the fluoroscopic screen for the benefit of the visiting physicians.

Following the clinic, the regular business of the society was transacted and the meeting was adjourned.

SONOMA COUNTY

At the March meeting, a new constitution and by-laws for the society were adopted; the principle change being the establishment of an executive committee consisting of the president, secretary, and three members appointed by the president so as to represent the different sections of the county, and having the power to act for the society when expediency requires.

The society was invited to the home of Dr. J. W. Cline to celebrate his fortieth anniversary as a doctor. As a token of esteem the doctor was presented with a silver cup.

Immunity

The Journal will express no opinion of and assume no responsibility for the views of "Immunity" correspondents. They must win or lose on their own merits by abounding in their own wisdom, and each reader must appraise each communication for what it is worth and take it for better or worse.

Communications will not be signed when published, but the author must be known to the editor. Send on your complaints, your kicks, your knocks, your boasts. We want constructive and destructive criticism. Air your pet hobbies. You are not limited to your own town or the medical profession.

WHY! OH! WHY!

To the Editor: Two queries have been propounded in the surgeons' dressing rooms of the Hospital of late.

(1) Why, or what has discouraged the appearance of the free lunch-stand at the County Medical meetings? With the lunch we were always sure of having an evening not entirely wasted.

(2) Does the hospital pay rent for the lounging-room of the County Medical Society, to be employed by its lethargic nurses?

I, with others, would be pleased to hear the answers.

Sincerely,

San Francisco, April 9, 1921.

X. Y. Z.

St. Joseph's Hospital, San Diego

By C. E. REES, M. D.

St. Joseph's Sanitarium has been operated as a general hospital by the Sisters of Mercy since 1890, and has gradually been enlarged from an institution accommodating thirty-five patients to one accommodating one hundred and fifty.

The present hospital consists of three buildings. The main hospital building, comprising four stories, is the one in which all patients are cared for. The annex is a two-story building, the lower portion of which contains nurses' lecture hall and X-ray department; the upper floor contains the operating

rooms. This annex is connected with the main building by a corridor. The third building, a modern home for nurses, is situated about one-half block from the hospital.

The nurses' training school has at present about forty pupil nurses, under the direction of one of the sisters, who is hospital superintendent. The regulation three-year course is given and all sisters doing nursing duties are either pupils or graduate nurses. At the present time there are eighteen sisters who are registered graduate nurses of this hospital.

The main part of the hospital is segregated into three departments—the surgical, occupying two floors; medical, one floor, and obstetrical, one floor. Each floor is in charge of a graduate sister, and the general nursing is done by pupils.

The obstetrical department is very complete. The delivery room and nursery are each in charge of a sister and are well separated from the rest of the hospital. The delivery rooms will accommodate three labor patients at one time, and contain quarters for physicians.

The nursery maintains very complete records of infants; the foot-print identification method is used; one print being taken at delivery, and the second when the infant leaves the hospital.

The surgery unit is separated from the main building and is very completely equipped, having two large major operating rooms; two minor operating rooms; one dark specialty room, in addition to sterilizing room, nurses' room, doctors' room and quarters. The operating department is in charge of a specially trained surgical nurse, who has two graduate sisters as assistants. The last three months of the pupil nurse's course are spent in this department.

The laboratory is in charge of two pathologists who alternate services and who are employed by the hospital. The pathologist has two assistants—one a trained full-time technician, and the other a sister who is a graduate nurse—so that a laboratory assistant is always available for emergency work.

A two-dollar laboratory fee is charged each patient on admission; this fee covers charges on following laboratory work:

1st—Complete blood count and urinalysis, which is done on every patient as soon as admitted;

2nd—Any smears and culture which may be necessary;

3rd—Gross and microscopic examination on all tissues removed.

This is a routine procedure, and all tissue removed in surgery is sectioned. All other laboratory work is done at moderate fees, which are waived when necessary.

The X-ray department is operated by a Roentgenologist who has as his assistant a sister nurse who is available at all times. Fees for this work are at a moderate schedule, but are reduced or waived as the case demands.

All necessary work in this hospital is so arranged that the patient after admission may receive all of the benefits of the institution, regardless of his financial condition.

The record department is in charge of a specially trained sister, and all records are completed, filed and indexed according to name and disease.

The hospital requires of the attending physician a complete history and physical examination record of each patient within twenty-four hours after admission, and all surgical patients must have a written pre-operative diagnosis on their charts before they are anaesthetized.

The hospital has a regularly appointed staff, and any member of the medical profession who is in good standing is eligible to apply for appointment.

Staff appointment requires a pledge of members to observe rules and regulations of the hospital, which rules are essentially those established in the minimum standard of the American College of Surgeons.